



LAKE WASHINGTON/CEDAR/SAMMAMISH WATERSHED (WRIA 8)



STEERING COMMITTEE

Bellevue
Bothell
Clyde Hill
Issaquah
King County
Kirkland
Maple Valley
Mercer Island
Redmond
Renton
Sammamish
Seattle
Shoreline
Snohomish County

The Boeing Company
Cedar River Council
Friends of Issaquah
Salmon Hatchery
Greater Maple Valley
Area Council
Greater Seattle
Chamber of Commerce
Mid-Sound Fisheries
Enhancement Group
Northwest Marine
Trade Association
Save Lake Sammamish
Sustainable Fisheries
Foundation
Trout Unlimited

US Army Corps
of Engineers
Washington Department
of Ecology
Washington Department
of Fish and Wildlife
Washington Department
of Natural Resources
Washington Association
of Sewer and
Water Districts
King Conservation
District

July 2005

Dear Salmon Supporters:

In March 1999, the federal government listed Puget Sound Chinook salmon as threatened according to the definitions of the federal Endangered Species Act. How did this come to pass? One could say it is because salmon have become too much a part of the fabric of our lives. They are harvested commercially and for recreation, feasted upon on special occasions and at intimate dinners, and celebrated in sculptures and stories. As people have become more numerous, we have caught more salmon, encroached upon where they live, and taken what they need to survive. Hence, their threat of extinction.

Now it is up to us whether to continue this pattern or to alter our habits and learn how to co-exist with the fish. Some 40 years ago, the previous generation created a legacy for us by cleaning up Lake Washington, before the Clean Water Act, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the state Department of Ecology even existed. It is our turn to decide what we will leave to future generations – paintings and songs about Chinook salmon or the opportunity to watch them return every summer and fall to spawn in sustainable numbers.

The Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed is a rapidly urbanizing area. It is home to more than 20 percent of the entire state population -- more people than in any other water resource inventory area (WRIA) in Washington. It is also home to three runs of Chinook salmon. Our challenge is to figure out how to accommodate both the economic engine of our state and these creatures that have evolved over millions of years.

That is why, on behalf of the WRIA 8 Steering Committee and Forum, which represents 27 local governments, we are pleased to share with you the *Final WRIA 8 Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan*. For nearly five years, citizens, scientists, community groups, businesses, environmental groups, public agencies, and elected officials have been working together in our shared watershed to develop this plan. It offers science-based priorities for actions that will protect and restore salmon habitat. But implementation of this plan will also benefit citizens


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Yarrow Point

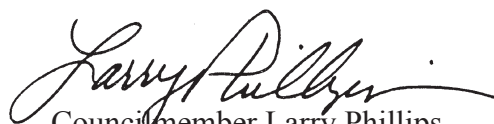
– by improving water quality, reducing flood hazards, protecting open space, enhancing management of stormwater run-off, and maintaining a proud legacy for future generations.

We strongly encourage everyone interested in salmon conservation to help implement this plan and improve the watershed shared by both salmon and citizens.


Sincerely,




Councilmember Jim Compton
City of Seattle
Co-Chair, WRIA 8 Steering
Committee



Councilmember Larry Phillips
King County
Co-Chair, WRIA 8 Steering
Committee



Councilmember Don Davidson
City of Bellevue
Chair, WRIA 8 Forum



Councilmember Jean Garber
City of Newcastle
Vice Chair, WRIA 8 Forum